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MATT BLUNT
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June 6, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 200 A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

Many Missouri farmers have suffered extraordinary losses due to excessive rain and flood damage that occurred May 5-12, 2007. Damage occurred in northwest and central Missouri counties along rivers, streams and tributaries. In addition to crop loss a substantial number of structures such as levees, ditches and terraces were damaged. Silt and sand deposits and a tremendous amount of debris were left as water receded. Many crops cannot be replanted until levees and cropland damage is repaired. Wet conditions also delayed planting in several areas and they will likely see a decrease in yield. Flooding will continue to remain a threat until all levees can be repaired and secured.

I most recently asked the Missouri Farm Services Agency to assess this damage in 34 counties of the state.

Based on the damage assessment reports submitted, I respectfully request 29 Missouri counties be declared natural disaster areas for agricultural loss due to flood damage: Andrew, Atchison, Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Callaway, Carroll, Cass, Chariton, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Harrison, Holt, Howard, Jackson, Lafayette, Livingston, Moniteau, Nodaway, Osage, Platte, Ray, Saline, and Worth.

I appreciate any assistance you can provide to Missouri farmers in this time of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Matt Blunt in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Matt Blunt

cc: Missouri FSA Office
SEMA
Missouri Department of Agriculture